

To the Members of the California State Assembly:

I am signing Assembly Bill 3051 because I agree with the objectives outlined in the bill. AB 3051 provides foster children greater access to dependency hearings, a goal I whole heartedly support. I question, however, why the courts have not made such access a greater priority when it is allowed under current law. More likely than not the reason is lack of resources and overburdened court schedules, which this bill fails to address.

The Legislative process determined that this bill did not warrant a hearing in any fiscal committee, but the bill clearly includes provisions for transportation and case monitoring that will require some level of funding for local government and court activities. I am signing this bill because the foster children of this state deserve to have a role in their futures. And to the extent that the courts or the counties determine that additional resources are needed to meet this important objective, I expect them to implement this bill utilizing current resources.

Sincerely,

Arnold Schwarzenegger